

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9686

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, (WFC)

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL (WFC) THIRD SESSION

SUMMARY: THE MOST NOTEWORTHY EVENT DURING THIRD DAY OF WFC SESSION WAS ADOPTION OF RELATIVELY INFLEXIBLE STANCE BY EC, WHO QUIBBLED AND CARPED THEIR WAY THROUGH A MARATHON DRAFTING EXERCISE. EUROPEAN ATTITUDE RESULTED IN FRANK CRITICISM BY WFC PRESIDENT TANCO AND LDC REPRESENTATIVES, ESPECIALLY KENYAN AND NIGERIAN AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS. THE EXPERIENCE DEMONSTRATED VALUE OF ADOPTING A FORTHCOMING DEMEANOR AND FLEXIBLE APPROACH IN NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS.

1. THIRD DAY OF THE SESSION WAS OCCUPIED BY A MARATHON 19-HOUR DRAFTING SESSION IN WHICH US PARTICIPATION WAS CHAIRED BY DALE HATHAWAY. BECAUSE OF NUMEROUS AMENDMENTS DURING SESSION, THE DOCUMENT WHICH EMERGED IS RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS AND UNDISTINGUISHED. OPERATIVE PREAMBLE CONTAINING IDEOLOGICALLY-ORIENTED AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY USSR WILL BE TAKLED BY DRAFTING GROUP AT COMMENCEMENT OF FOURTH DAY.

2. MOST NOTEWORTHY DEVELOPMENT WAS ATTITUDE OF
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EUROPEANS, WHO BECAME INCREASINGLY MORE INFLEXIBLE AND NEGATIVE AS DRAFTING PROGRESSED. EUROPEANS WERE REPRESENTED BY UK UNDERSECRETARY FOR OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT FOGARTY, WITH DAVIES AND EC REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE MALVE AT HIS SHOULDER AND PROVIDING MOST OF THE SUGGESTED CHANGES. THEY INTRODUCED AMENDMENTS WHICH WERE EITHER EMASCULATING, QUIBBLING OR POLEMIC ON

VIRTUALLY EVERY PARAGRAPH OF SIGNIFICANCE, ESPECIALLY ON FOOD AID, SECURITY AND FOOD TRADE. IN SEVERAL CASES NO COMPROMISE WAS POSSIBLE AND EC COUNCIL MEMBERS' RESERVATIONS ARE RECORDED IN FOOTNOTES. IN MOST CASES JAPAN CHIMED IN AT END OF DISCUSSION TO ASSOCIATE WITH EUROPEANS. EVEN JAPANESE, HOWEVER, WERE UNABLE TO ACCEPT AMENDMENT WHICH MARKED THE LOW POINT OF DISCUSSIONS, WHEN UK SUGGESTED DELETING PHRASES "TO PROVIDE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" AND "INCREASED ACCESS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS" FROM FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "NEGOTIATIONS OF THE UNCTAD INTEGRATED PROGRAM FOR COMMODITIES BE PURSUED, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO FOODSTUFFS, AND THAT COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT GATT MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS REINFORCE THEIR EFFORTS TO PROVIDE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, IN THE CONTEXT OF A PROGRESSIVE LIBERALIZATION OF TRADE, INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS TO DEVELOPED COUNTRY FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL MARKETS AND AN IMPROVED FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRADE". ATMOSPHERE ALSO SUFFERED FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OVERBEARING STEADY STREAM OF CYNICAL AND BELITTling SIDE COMMENTARY FROM MALVE AND DAVIES.

3. AT 3 A.M. CONCLUSION OF DAYS' DISCUSSION, COUNCIL PRESIDENT TANCO ASKED EC REPRESENTATIVES, ON A PERSONAL BASIS BUT ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHER COUNCIL
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MEMBERS, FOR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE COMMUNITY HAD TAKEN SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE. TANCO STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT DOMESTIC POLICIES LIMITED ABILITY TO ACT, BUT THAT IT DID NOT PRECLUDE JOINING IN EXPRESSIONS OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES WHICH IMPLIED CONCERN FOR DDC PROBLEMS. FOGARTY REPLIED THAT EC POLICIES HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED AND ARTICULATED, AND THAT THEREFORE HE WAS UNABLE TO ACCEPT ANY FORMULATION WHICH MIGHT IMPLY THE WRONGNESS OF SUCH POLICIES. MALVE STATED EUROPEANS MUST BE CAUTIOUS BECAUSE OF PRESENT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND THEIR POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS, ADDING THAT PRESENT STANCE IS FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES "OWN GOOD". SEVERAL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY MINISTERS OF KENYA AND NIGERIA AND REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH REACTED SHARPLY, CONTRASTING EC ATTITUDES AT WFC WITH UK ATTITUDE AT RECENT COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE.

4. EUROPEANS SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ACCEPT, WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS, RAPPORTEUR'S DRAFT COMMUNIQUE. WHY THEY DIDN'T IS UNCERTAIN, BUT STEMS AT LEAST IN PART FROM PERSONALITIES ON THE DELEGATION, U.S.

AND OTHER GRAIN EXPORTERS' PRESSURE
CONCERNING FOOD SECURITY, SKEPTICISM CONCERNING VALUE
OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL, AND PIQUE AT GROWING
CRITICISM OF COMMUNITY AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE
POLICIES BY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. AT ANY RATE, CONTRASTING EUROPEAN BEHAVIOR ENHANCED
IMAGE OF U.S. AS SYMPATHETIC TO LDC CONCERNS AND
HELPED GREATLY TO SIMPLIFY DELEGATION'S TASK IN FEW
CASES WHERE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE GAVE US DIFFICULTIES.
THE EVENTS DEMONSTRATE VALUE OF FORTHCOMING DEMEANOR
AND FLEXIBILITY OF RESPONSE IN DRAFTING ENVIRONMENT
DURING NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS. THROUGH US AND EUROPEAN
POSITIONS ON MOST ISSUES ARE NOT RPT NOT TERRIBLY DIFFERENT,
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THE PICTURE WHICH EMERGED FROM THE WAYS IN WHICH
THEY WERE CASE, IS QUITE STRIKING.
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Message Attributes

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